

City of Newton – Recreation Commission

Minutes from January 14, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Terry Abernethy

Members in attendance:

Terry Abernethy, Mickie Drum, David Shugart, Marshall Pratt, John Stiver and Sandra Waters.

Visitors:

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Carol Stiles.

A. Approval of Minutes

Commission member Mickie Drum moved for the Commission to approve the minutes from the Thursday, December 19th regular meeting, seconded by Commission member David Shugart, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Co-Chairman Terry Abernethy welcomed everyone.

C. Sue Jones Estate – 1.2 Million Dollars

The Recreation Commission did a final review of projects for the list on how to spend the 1.2 million dollar donation. They are listed as follows;

Jacob Fork Park

A. Light (2) existing softball fields - **\$250,000 - \$350,000**

B. Disc Golf – 18 holes - **\$25,000**

Playgrounds

A. Additional updated equipment at (4) parks – Southside (\$80,100), Westside/Jaycee (\$40,000), Northside/Broyhill (\$60,000), Central (\$40,000) Jacob Fork Park (\$150,000) = **\$370,100**

B. ½ City and ½ donated monies.

Swimming Pool/Playground Equipment

A. Playground unit w/pad unit inside swimming pool - **\$15,000**

Shelters

New shelter at Jacob Fork Park/new playground area 30' x 44' (wood) - **\$25,000**

Stage at Yount Park

Hire a planner to create a new Recreation Master Plan - \$25,000.

Jacob Fork Park - \$15,000

A. Pump Track - \$5,000

B. Exercise Skills Trail - \$5,000

A. Flow Track - \$5,000

A motion was made by Terry Abernethy, seconded by Marshall Pratt and unanimously approved by the recreation commission the above projects for the 1.2 Million - Sue Jones Estate.

D. Northside Tennis Courts

The Recreation Commission toured Northside Park during one of its regular meetings on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. At this meeting a discussion was held by the Director and commission members on what should be done with the tennis courts due to the poor condition and lack of interest and funds for repairs. The suggested plan was to remove the tennis courts by city staff, install new playground equipment where the courts are, remove the fencing and install it around the basketball court.

At its regular meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2013 the recreation commission again reviewed issues with the lower tennis court at Northside Park. After a lengthy discussion, Terry Abernethy made a motion seconded by Mickie Drum and unanimously approved the removal of lower courts due to public interests at this time, court conditions and funding. The total cost to renovate the courts is \$43,500. The Recreation Commission also encourages the City Council to continue funding for the upkeep of (4) existing courts at Westside/Jaycee Park as well as the (2) upper courts at Northside Park.

The courts have been locked due to deterioration and unsafe conditions.

E. Playground Equipment

Director showed the Commission pictures of 2 playground options at Northside Park. The Assistant Director will meet with Commission members Terry Abernethy and Mickie Drum to discuss playground layouts and ideas at Northside Park

F. 600 feet to 750 feet Greenway Bid

The Director told the commission that the City currently had received (5) contractors bids to fix the 600 – 750 feet section of the damaged greenway with the deadline coming up.

G. Membership

The Director asked staff and commission to be looking for a new member to serve on the commission to replace a vacancy created by John Stiver. The Commission had a couple of suggestions, and plans to continue looking for a new commission member.

H. \$150.00 check from Michelin Soccer Program

The Director told the Commission that the Recreation Department had received \$150.00 check from the Michelin Tire to go toward our Soccer Program for materials and supplies.

I. Other

Assistant Director Carol Stiles was voted President of the Western Youth Athletic Association for the next three years. The Western Youth Athletic Association consist of representatives from any municipal or county recreation agency within the following counties of North Carolina: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Iredell, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Surry, Watauga and Wilkes.

The Recreation Department turned in 240 pounds of canned food to the ECCCM.

J. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

K. Motion to adjourn from Marshall Pratt, meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.